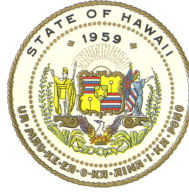
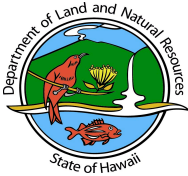


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## **Lay Nets**

### **A Proposed Rule Amendment**

It is the intention of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to examine the use of lay nets, assess the impacts and regulate their use in order to protect Hawaii's fishery resources.

#### **Definition: Lay Nets or Lay Gill Nets:**

Stationary gillnets used in nearshore waters.

These are also referred to as "set" nets or "moemoe" nets. The lay net is used passively because a panel of net is set in one location and not actively tended. Fish are caught as they swim into it and become entangled in the net. The nets are commonly made of monofilament nylon which has been manufactured into netting with floats on one length and weights on the other length.

#### **History of lay net management by DLNR**

DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DLNR-DAR) has been working on improving management of lay nets for some time. The following chronology illustrates some key events.

- 1977 - Maximum soak time: 12 hours, previously no limit; minimum mesh size: 2"
- 1992 - Report on lay net management in response to HCR 401 HD1 recommends mesh size increase and soak time reduction
- 1993 - Maximum soak time reduced to 4 hours with required inspection at 2 hours
- 1994 - Minimum mesh size increased to 2 3/4"; to take effect 12/31/96
- 1998-99 - Gill Net Task Force meets and recommends lay net regulations
- 2000-02 - Draft regulations developed from recommendations and reviewed internally
- 2002 - Statewide public meetings on proposed lay net management regulations
- 2003 - Statewide lay net ban proposed by DLNR, public meetings approved
- 2003-2004 - State wide public meetings on proposed ban of lay nets

The current regulations on lay nets set a maximum soak time of four hours, with a requirement to inspect the net every two hours. The minimum mesh size is 2 3/4" (stretched.) For the West Hawaii coastline on the Island of Hawaii, recent amendments to fishing regulations additionally restrict the use of lay nets (based on recommendations from the Gillnet Task Force,) as well as a ban on netting in certain locations.

## **DLNR's Proposed Lay Net Gear Restrictions:**

For waters where lay nets are to be permitted, additional restrictions are proposed:

### **Registration and Identification & Registration:**

Nets must be registered with the Department

Net owners must report any registered lay net that is lost, stolen, given away or otherwise no longer the property of said owner

Nets must have four identification tags, one at each end of the float and lead lines

Nets must have at least two surface buoys (with registration numbers) placed at either end of the float line.

The Department may seize any lay net found in the water that is not registered or with identification or is being fished improperly.

### **Net Dimensions:**

Maximum Net Length: 125 feet

Maximum net height: 7 feet (stretched)

Minimum mesh: 2-3/4" (stretched) (3" for Kailua Bay FMA).

Multi-panel nets are prohibited.

### **Fishing Protocols:**

Minimum distance between lay nets: 250 feet

Nets may not be used at depths deeper than 25 feet; unless the fisher has a Commercial Marine License, then 80 feet

Nets may not be used for more than 4 hours at any one time

Nets must be inspected after two hours of being set.

Nets may not be used for at least 24 hours after any use

Fishers may not leave a lay net unattended for longer than 30 minutes

No lay net fishing permitted in freshwater streams or stream mouths

### **Proposed Area Restrictions:**

Molokai, Lanai and Kauai and Niihau will not have banned areas for lay net use; however, the proposed additional restrictions will apply.

### **Proposed waters where lay net use would be banned:**

Hawaii - existing banned areas in West Hawaii

Maui - around the entire island

Oahu - Portlock Point to the Reef Runway

- Kailua Bay (Mokapu Peninsula to northern boundary for Bellows AFB)

- Kaneohe Bay (portions of Bay surrounded by access channels)

### **Evaluation for Effectiveness**

The proposed ban and additional restrictions on lay net use will be evaluated for its effectiveness in terms of conserving fishery resources.